

LEADERSHIP STYLE OF THE CHARACTER *SEAN PORTER* IN *GRIDIRON GANG* MOVIE DIRECTED BY PHIL JOANOU

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ABSTRACT

Gridiron Gang adalah sebuah film tentang tim futbol yang dibentuk sebagai solusi dari masalah yang terus terjadi dan tak terselesaikan di Pusat Penjara Kilpatrick. Tim futbol tersebut terdiri dari anak-anak dengan latar belakang kriminal dan budaya yang berbeda-beda. Karakter utama dalam film tersebut, Sean Porter, adalah orang yang menginisiasi program pembentukan tim futbol sebagai solusi dari masalah yang terjadi pada anak-anak di Pusat Penjara Kilpatrick. Tujuan dari skripsi ini adalah untuk menjelaskan aspek intrinsik yang terdiri dari aspek naratif (karakter, *setting*, konflik) dan sinematik (*mise-en-scene*, sinematografi, *editing*, dan audio) serta aspek ekstrinsik yang mengidentifikasi gaya kepemimpinan yang Sean aplikasikan dalam memimpin dan melatih tim futbol nya dengan menggunakan teori *Path-Goal Leadership* oleh Robert House. Dalam penulisan skripsi ini, penulis menggunakan metode penelitian pustaka dan pendekatan psikologi sosial. Dalam penelitian ini, penulis menemukan bahwa Sean mengaplikasikan gaya kepemimpinan yang berbeda-beda.

Kata kunci: gaya kepemimpinan, Path-Goal Leadership, psikologi sosial

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Leadership style is a comprehensive pattern of action, strategies, and behaviors that are applied by a leader to influence subordinates in order to achieve

goals (Rivai and Mulyadi, 2012: 42). Leadership practically directs and influences the way of thinking, character, habits, and behavior of subordinates towards a goal. Leadership style is influenced by internal factors of a leader, internal factors in the group, and external factors. Internal factors of a leader consist of traits, personality, behavior and physical characteristics of the leader, whereas the internal factor of a group consists of culture, ethnic, race, politics, education, religion, and etc. The external factors that affect a leadership are media and environment (Rivai, 2004: 65).

Gridiron Gang is an American sports drama film directed by Phil Joanou. In the movie, there is a prominent leadership style which is represented by the main character. The leadership style that the main character applies and the process of how the main character influences stimulate how the group acts and reacts in reaching the goal through the fulfillment of their needs. Beside his leadership style, how he stands on his own thought to make changes which contrast with the authorities at his office and the fellow clubs of football league also reflect individualism values. Therefore, the writer is interested in analyzing how the main character influences his group members who come from different background in reaching the goal and survives his own thought and choice in making changes with his leadership style and individualism values.

1.2. PURPOSE OF THE TUDY

There are three purposes of the study that the writer conducts, which are To describe the intrinsic aspects in *Gridiron Gang* movie which consist of character,

setting, and conflict, and to identify the leadership style that the main character, Sean Porter, applies on the movie using Path Goal-Leadership theory by Robert House.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1. METHOD OF THE STUDY

Method contains how and where the data are collected from. Nyoman Kutha Ratna states that method is considered as systematic ways, strategies, and steps to analyze the series of cause and effect (2013: 34). The writer uses two methods in collecting data, namely method of research and method of approach.

2.1.1. METHOD OF RESEARCH

In doing this study, the writer uses library research. George explains that “library research involves identifying and locating sources that provide factual information or personal/expert opinion on a research question” (2008: 6). The research is based on the main data and the supporting data which are collected from books, e-books, journal, internet websites, newspaper, etc.

2.1.2. METHOD OF APPROACH

The writer conducts the research by using exponential approach in analyzing narrative elements. Guerin states that “exponential approach deals with the inclusiveness of the term suggest at once the several meanings of motif, image, symbol and archetype” (1992: 197). In line with the fact that the writer uses movie as her primary object, the writer analyzes both the narrative and the cinematography elements of the movie. In analyzing the extrinsic elements, the writer uses social

psychology approach. Oldentorff in Santoso (2010: 9) states that “social psychology is the science of individual behavior in relation to social situation”. By using this approach, the writer analyzes the behavior and actions of the main character of the movie in leading and influencing the other characters.

2.2. DISCUSSION

2.2.1. ANALYSIS OF INTRINSIC ASPECT

Intrinsic aspects are the internal elements that build a movie. This part provides the analysis of narrative elements from *Gridiron Gang* movie.

2.2.1.1. Analysis of Characters

2.2.1.1.1. Sean Porter

Sean Porter is the main character in this movie. He has a good body building with big muscles in his arms. He is also a former football player. He is a lovable man because he loves his mother so much. It is proven by his deeds in taking care of his mother who suffers from cancer. He takes his mother to the hospital and visits her regularly. He also prioritizes his mother’s health over his job. In the Kilpatrick, he is known as the man who takes control the situation. He is also an assertive person. He stands on what he believes including to his boss. Sean is also an ambitious man who wants his team to win every single game. He puts high expectations on his team.

2.2.1.1.2. Willie Weathers

Willie Weathers is an African-American boy who comes from gang 88. He loves his mother so much and does not accept his father’s harshness toward his mother. Because of it, he shoots his father until he dies. He is then brought to the

Kilpatrick Detention Center. In Kilpatrick Detention Center, he meets Sean. Sean makes him become the member of his football team. He has a gang trouble with one of the team member named Kelvin, who comes from gang 95. Willie has a close relationship with Sean because Sean was used to care about his cousin, Roger Weathers, who also lived at the detention center and got killed after he had been sent back to his neighborhood. Sean does not want it happen to Willie, so Sean put Willie in his football team.

2.2.1.1.3. Paul and Ted

Paul and Ted are the authorities in Kilpatrick. They do not want to make any changes in the programs, and they also insist Sean to obey the rules that have been applied for years. They at first do not really support Sean's idea about creating a football team. After the long progress and some winnings of the team, they begin to support the team and always come to watch the match.

2.2.1.2. Analysis of Setting

The setting of place in *Gridiron Gang* mostly takes place in Kilpatrick Detention Center and gridiron. Gridiron is the field where the Mustangs team play football games against the rivals. The movie tells a story that happens in 2005 which is proven by the book that is written "2005 STANDARD DIARY". The movie pictures a situation in the Kilpatrick Detention Centre that the kids come from different criminal, social, and ethnic backgrounds. There are kids who are Asian, African-America, white American, and Mexican.

2.2.1.3. Analysis of Conflict

Internal conflict happens on Sean. The conflict occurs when he tries to find a way to solve the problem about the kids who get into trouble again or face their death when they leave Kilpatrick Detention Center. Sean wants to change it, but he has to break some rules to make a big result. Sean has a conflict which comes from external forces. The external forces are Paul and Ted who are Sean's bosses. The external conflict also happens between Willie and Kelvin. Willie who comes from gang 88 has a big revenge for boys from gang 95 because of the death of his cousin, Roger. In the center, he meets Kelvin who is from gang 95. They share hatred to each other from the first time they meet.

2.2.2. ANALYSIS OF EXTRINSIC ASPECT

2.2.2.1. Sean's Leadership Style in Forming his Football Team

1) Directive Leadership

From the first time Sean let his members of football team know what he expects from them. The directive leadership style can be seen in how he expects the kids to stop being a loser and to become somebody who does something useful in his live. He tells his team that the only way to reach the goal is to do everything in his own ways, not in their ways. The team should do everything he instructs such as doing exercises, getting along to everybody from different social backgrounds and gangs, and become as a team who lives together. Sean also mentions three things that they should be responsible, which are dorm, school, and gridiron.

2) Supportive Leadership

Since the condition in Kilpatrick Detention Center is very stressful because of the fights and troubles among the kids, Sean tries to increase the kids' self-confidence by making them believe that they can be winners. Sean never forgets to give the kids compliment when they play greatly. The moment before they start the first game Sean gives some motivations to the team so that the team can play well and win the game. Sean also fills up the swimming pool with water after their first winning game as a reward of the kids' hard works. Sean's supportive leadership style is also proven by the satisfaction of the team members. They now feel more confident and believe that they have changed and improved to the better level. It is proven by the letters that they write to the persons they love. Kenny tells his mother that football is great and he's good at it now. Kelvin writes that his grandmother will be proud of him because he has stayed away from problems.

3) Participative Leadership

The writer assumes that Sean Porter does not apply participative leadership because the kids do not have high needs to control the environment. The kids tend to obey the commands and instructions that Sean gives. In the movie, there is not any scene and conversation that shows Sean asks the kids' suggestion and opinions about their football playing.

4) Achievement-Oriented Leadership

Sean's goal of making the football team is to decrease the percentage of the kids who go back to the detention centre or jail or die on the street. It is a very

challenging work because he never does it before, the kids are with criminal backgrounds, and he does not get full support from the boss. He also pushes the team to play on their highest level of confidence to prove to people outside the center that they can do something special that anybody cannot do. It is proven when they do their practice before their first game. Sean pushes the team to stay focus and to not complaint so much because their first game is getting closer. Because Willie plays the most important role in the team, Sean also pushes Willie by giving him personal practice.

3. CONCLUSION

In leading his football team to win the league according to the writer's analysis, Sean only applies three of four styles of Path Goal Leadership theory from Robert House. He uses directive leadership style, supportive leadership style, and achievement oriented leadership style. He uses directive leadership style because it is effective to be applied in his team who does not have certain things and goals to do in their lives at the detention center. He applies supportive leadership style because the kids of his team have low self-confidence and satisfaction toward their lives and their future. Another leadership style that Sean applies is achievement oriented leadership. The goal and achievement that he sets and targets are very challenging and have never been done before. He also does not get full support from his boss, and the team he leads is formed by kids with criminal backgrounds so he has to give all of his

energy and focus to the project. Sean does not apply participative leadership style because the kids do not have high intention in taking control the group in reaching their goals.

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